5

10

15

20

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DEVICE ADDRESSING ON A COMPUTER NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method, system, and computer program product for communicating information over a communications network from a sending device to a target device is disclosed. The sending device determines a network location of a target device to which a first frame of information is to be sent. The first frame of information is formatted for a first communications protocol and includes a device address field configured to store a device identifier that corresponds to the target device. Then the sending device selects, based on the network location of the target device, an addressing scheme from among plural different addressing schemes. The device identifier is generated for the first frame on the basis of the selected addressing scheme. The sending device encapsulates the first frame of information in a second frame of information formatted for a second communications protocol and including a destination address field. Then the sending device generates a destination address for the second frame on the basis of the device identifier in the device address field of the first frame, stores the destination address in the destination address field of the second frame, and transmits the second frame of information over the communications network.

I:\atty\RCM\Prosec-Prep\6905\200241-pa.doc